

Ibarra is a true leader, as demonstrated by the enormous empathy and devotion that he showed to his neighbors and constituents through numerous public meetings, private deliberations, and policy choices leading to recovery in San Bruno.

Ken Ibarra is leaving civic life, but we who know him well know that civic engagement will never leave Ken Ibarra. He is a skilled architect of both structures and civic pride. We wish him well as he enters another phase of his life where he will undoubtedly pursue both crafts for years to come.

PROCLAMATION FOR REVEREND
DR. DERRICK R. RHODES

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Reverend Dr. Derrick R. Rhodes:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through Pastoral leadership and service; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Derrick R. Rhodes has given of himself to lead Kelly Chapel United Methodist Church these past ten years as Senior Pastor and under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Kelly Chapel United Methodist Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless by ministering the word of God, he educates the masses as an author and counselor, he is engaged in the civic affairs of our community as the founder and first president of the West Georgia Ministerial Alliance, a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and as a member of the Prince Hall Masonic Order; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Derrick R. Rhodes is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Reverend Dr. Derrick R. Rhodes as he celebrates his 10th Pastoral Anniversary at Kelly Chapel United Methodist Church;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 21, 2017 as Reverend Dr. Derrick R. Rhodes Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 21st day of May, 2017.

HONORING ROBYN KRUEGER ON 40 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO COMMUNITY MISSIONS OF NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Missions, Inc. (CMI) of Niagara Frontier's Executive Director, Ms. Robyn Krueger on the occasion of her 40th Anniversary of dedicated service to those in need throughout the City of Niagara Falls and beyond its borders.

Since 1925, Community Missions' guiding principle to provide "Compassion in Action" remains a clarion call to all those who lead, work, volunteer and engage with individuals and families to reach their full potential. This organization has expanded its reach beyond its initial population of homeless individuals to now include 19 programs within four divisions known as Crisis & Community Services, Mental Health Housing Services, Mental Health Recovery Services and Youth Services, reflecting the changing needs of the community throughout the decades.

Community Missions' vision to help people find their place in the world is certainly personified in its long-time Executive Director, Robyn Krueger. Hired in 1977, she began her career with CMI as a live-in houseparent to six adolescent males in the City of Niagara Falls. She graduated from SUNY at Buffalo with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1985 and completed several selected graduate studies in the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department. Ms. Krueger was named Executive Director of CMI in September of 1994. For the more than two decades since she assumed this role, CMI continues to open its doors to better reflect the changing needs of the community. As CMI provides almost 50 percent more meals than it did 10 years ago, it is clear those needs are growing. In 2016 alone, Community Missions provided 11,104 nights of shelter, 89,366 meals, 6,744 individuals with clothing, 2,295 care days in Youth Services, 46,888 care days in Recovery Services, 73,994 care days in Housing Services and 182 opportunities for Faith Development.

Ms. Krueger's extensive professional and community involvement spreads beyond her duties as Executive Director as she serves on a variety of local, county and state committees, boards and associations in leadership and active roles. These include the Association for Community Living, Homeless Alliance of Western New York, Juvenile Detention Association of NYS, Niagara Behavioral Healthcare Network, Niagara County Juvenile Justice Taskforce and NYS Association for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

A member of the Who's Who among Outstanding Business Executives, this determined administrator is a graduate of Leadership Niagara's Class of 2004. Her achievements have earned her the 2006 Anthony J. Cuccurullo Award from the New York State Juvenile Detention Association, the 2011 Niagara Award for Management from the YWCA of Niagara Frontier, and the 2013 Killian Vetter Individual Achievement Award given by the Homeless Alliance of Western New York. Other well deserved recognitions include the

Woman Vanessa Scott Ministries "I Shall Wear a Crown" Award given for Ministry Service, the Dominion Life Christian Center "Lion of Judah" Award for longevity of service to the community, and the 2016 Niagara University President's Award—St. Vincent de Paul.

Ms. Krueger's commitment to service clearly includes putting others first as her heart, humanity and deep faith are integral to her leadership style. She publicly proclaims so often that "operating such a diverse organization would not be possible without the help of our dedicated staff, along with the unwavering support of our community." These are more than mere words as for 25 years CMI recognizes their volunteers and supporters for their countless hours of commitment, care and concern for their neighbors in need with its Annual Compassion in Action Awards Brunch.

CMI continues to strengthen its public, private and non-profit partnerships, with institutions such as United Way of Niagara County and Niagara University, as it is actively engaged in the planning, programs and intervention strategies presented at the Annual Poverty Conference. The leadership of Community Missions and the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center have joined forces to increase recovery and understanding with a focus on the annual Interfaith Community Prayer Service. Under Ms. Krueger's direction, these works and other ongoing collaborative efforts have earned Community Missions the Catholic Charities 2003 Community Partner and the 2009 Niagara USA Chamber Community Advocate of the Year Award. On Wednesday, November 29th, 2017, the Community Missions family including staff, board members, volunteers, supporters and friends will gather to observe 92 years of service to the Niagara Frontier. The highlight of this event will be the heartfelt acknowledgement of Robyn Krueger's 40 years of helping countless families and individuals reach their full potential.

It should be noted that the 40th is traditionally known as the ruby anniversary, as the symbolism behind that crimson stone rests in its inner flame that represents a living and vibrant love. It should be said that Ms. Robyn Krueger possesses that inner flame as her professional career and personal commitment represents a living and vibrant love for Community Missions, her faith and her fellow human beings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the significant contributions and good works of Ms. Robyn Krueger as her 40th Anniversary is recognized during this "Season of Thanks" celebration, and to thank her and Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc. for making a real difference in our world.

HONORING KENNETH LEE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community, Kenneth Wayne Lee, who this year is being honored by the Luther V. Garrison Sr. Masonic Foundation Inc. as their 2017 Man of the Year. Kenny has always been active in his community and is most deserving of this honor.

Kenny was educated in the Greenburgh Central 7 School District where he excelled

both in the classroom and on the athletic field. Kenny graduated Woodlands High School with honors in 1981 and after graduation, he accepted a baseball scholarship to attend Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.

In 1985, Kenny completed his degree from Tulane and signed a Letter of Intent with the Cincinnati Reds of Major League Baseball. He also completed two years of AA Baseball in Birmingham, Alabama and one year in Yasu, Japan.

In 1989, Kenny became a Master Mason and member of The Bright Hope Lodge No. 62 in White Plains, New York. Kenny elevated to Worshipful Master in 2003 and has held a number of appointed Grand Lodge offices for MWPHGL of New York, including Grand Librarian (2004 to 2009) and DDGM (2010 to Present). He is also affiliated with Bright Hope Chapter No. 46, Pentecost Consistory No. 98 and A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Elejmal Temple No. 185.

Professionally, Kenny was employed by IBM for 28 years, where he moved up the corporate ladder, and today serves as Corporate Security Supervisor for Century Protective Services. He is also a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in White Plains, NY, where he is involved in several activities sponsored by the church. In addition, Kenny was involved in many community activities such as: Feeding the Less Fortunate, Widows Mother's Day Breakfast, Thanksgiving Food Basket Giveaway, and coaching youth baseball.

Kenny has always been willing to lend a helping hand, which is why he is receiving this great honor. I want to congratulate and thank him for all he has done to better our community.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY AND CONNIE BUTTLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Terry and Connie Buttler of Guthrie Center, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 30th.

Terry and Connie's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

HONORING AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a devoted and inspirational church, the

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST), of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This year AECST celebrates 225 years of dedicated ministry and service to the community of Philadelphia. AECST has provided 225 years of "Legacy, Faith, and Hope". AECST was founded in 1792, by Reverend Absalom Jones and stands as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. It is also recognized as one of two oldest black churches in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Historically, AECST was founded to provide religious support, foster personal and religious freedoms, and self-determination for persons of African descent. The original African Church was an outgrowth of the Free African Society, a mutual aid organization established in 1787 by Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and others to assist the Black population in Philadelphia. The early religious services were held in private homes and in a school. Within the congregation were many who, because of growing racial tension and insults had followed the lay preachers, Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, broke away from the St. George's Methodist Church. Affiliation with the Episcopal Church was ratified in 1794. The Reverend Absalom Jones became the first Episcopal priest of African American descent and the first rector of St. Thomas' Church.

AECST has been in the vanguard of action to sustain the legacy of humanitarianism and community outreach passed down from its founders. Admirably, AECST's clergy and parishioners have played key roles in the abolition, anti-slavery and Underground Railroad movements and the early equal rights movement of the 1800's. Over the past fifty years, AECST has figured prominently in the civil rights movement, The NAACP, Union of Black Episcopalians, Opportunities Industrialization Center, Philadelphia Interfaith Action and The Episcopal Church Women. Paramount, however, has been the movement to uphold the knowledge and value of the Black presence in the Episcopal Church. Today, that tradition continues with an ever-growing membership and through a host of ministries such as Christian Formation, the Chancel Choir, Gospel Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Men's Fellowship, Young Adult and Youth Ministries, a Church School, Health Ministry, Caring Ministry, and a Shepherding Program.

Today, AECST flourishes as an open, Christ-centered community of faith where the Gospel is taught, lived and spread. As evidenced through AECST's history, they have a longstanding dedication toward advocating and improving the lives of others.

The 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas for its dedicated support to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE STIMSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Irene Stimson of Blanchard, Iowa on the very special occasion of her 100th birthday. Irene was born on October 19, 1917.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Irene's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Irene has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Irene in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Irene on reaching this incredible milestone, and in wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes held on November 28, 2017, I was inescapably detained handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on H.R. 2768, and NO on H.R. 3115.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2017 NODAWAY VALLEY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Nodaway Valley High School Boys Cross Country team for winning the Iowa Class 1A State Cross Country Championship for the third consecutive year. In addition to the championship, the team set a program record with an average time of 16:56 for their seven varsity runners.

I would like to congratulate each member of the team:

Runners: Brycen Wallace, Skyler Rawlings, Austin Lundy, Joel Blazek, Joshua Baudler, Tyler Breheny and Ben Breheny

Head Coach: Darrell Burmeister

Assistant Coaches: David Swanson, Phyllis Eshelman, Alyse Herr Dreher

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young men for their achievements in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.